GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2075
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2016
Transportation of Goods by Ships
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after development of Varanasi-Haldia Waterway, transportation of goods and passengers by ship from Varanasi is also likely to be started this year, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the amount of funds likely to be spent on the said project along with its likely benefits;
(c) whether shipping is also likely to be operational on the remaining rivers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether water level in the rivers is an hindrance to the said project and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) In 2016, vessels of 1000 DWT capacity are expected to navigate on the Varanasi-Haldia stretch of National Waterway-1 enabling transportation of goods and passengers.

(b)The estimated cost of the Jal Marg Vikas Project to be implemented over a period of six years is Rs. 4200 crore. The objective of the project is to provide an environment friendly, fuel efficient and cost-effective alternative mode of transportation, especially for bulk, hazardous goods and over dimensional cargo. The project is expected to boost economic development of the region and generate substantial employment for the people, through increased movement of cargo and passengers and their egress and ingress through the multimodal terminals being constructed at strategic locations along National Waterway−1.

(c)&(d):The "National Waterways Bill, 2015" has already been passed by the LokSabha during Winter Session, 2015 for declaration of 106 additional inland waterways as National Waterways. The Bill is expected to be taken up for consideration by the RajyaSabha during the Budget Session, 2016. The process for preparation of Techno- Economic Feasibility Studies / Detailed Project Reports for identified new waterways has also been initiated. Details of water availability and feasibility of navigation thereon will be clear after the outcome of these studies.

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